

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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CITY CELEBRATES 2ND ANNIVERSARY OF CLEAN AIR INITIATIVE

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard joined leaders from Community Health Network, St. Vincent Hospital and Clarian Health to celebrate the two-year anniversary of the Central Indiana Clean Air Partnership (CICAP), and call on additional area businesses to commit to taking tangible steps in an effort to improve air quality.

“Clean air isn’t just a good idea; it’s good business too,” said Mayor Ballard. “Managing ozone and fine particle levels is important to our region’s continued economic viability.”

The CICAP program launched in 2007 and has expanded to include more than 165 member businesses, 85 of which have joined since October of 2008.

Businesses benefit when their communities meet federal air quality standards. For example, construction permitting thresholds for new and expanding facilities are much lower in nonattainment areas. Lower thresholds can add difficulties, including delays and additional costs before the start of a construction project.

The CICAP program outlines a number of steps businesses can take to make a visible difference in central Indiana’s air quality. Businesses that join the CICAP program commit to a specific level of participation based on the actions they agree to implement; from installing “Idle Free Zone” signage in loading docks, to retrofitting diesel vehicles with diesel oxidation catalysts (DOCs), to encouraging employees to carpool, bike or take public transportation to work.

“As one of the area’s largest employers, we recognize that what happens within Clarian’s hospital walls inevitably impacts the broader community, so we take environmental stewardship seriously,” said Ron Stiver, Clarian Health’s Senior Vice President for Engagement and External Affairs. “Even small steps toward reducing energy consumption make a tremendous difference in the long run, and the dollars we save can be redirected toward patient care delivery.”

Businesses interested in becoming CICAP partners can request materials and join CICAP by visiting the new website, www.indycicap.org.

About SustainIndy:

Mayor Ballard launched SustainIndy and created the Office of Sustainability in October of 2008. Both represent an innovative enterprise aimed at delivering long-term cost savings to the city, building the local economy, improving our quality of life and enhancing our environmental and public health. Its efforts are designed to aggressively move Indianapolis forward in making it one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest. For more information, visit www.sustainindy.org.

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